

## Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 41A, Rincon Mountains

ACPA, January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

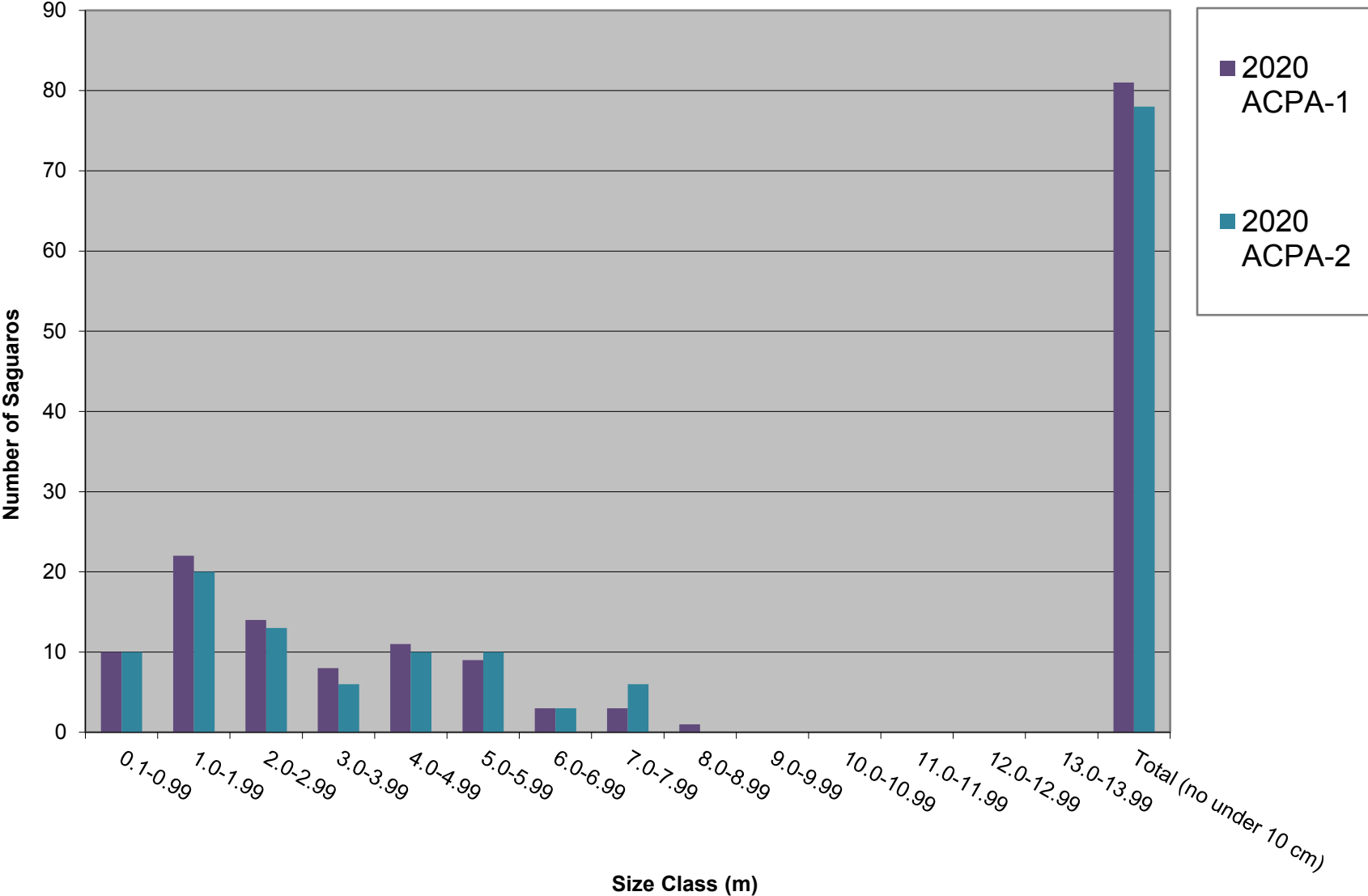


A huge thank you to the students and teachers of Arizona College Prep Academy, who brought out two groups of students in late January to finish plot 41A near the Broadway Trailhead. They were enthusiastic, energetic, and hard-working. We always appreciate the chance to work with this school, which has conducted so many great service projects at Saguaro National Park over the years.

Plot 41A was established nearly 80 years ago and is a good example of why it is important for several generations of people to collaborate in order to learn about this plant that lives longer than we do! The plot had a large number of saguaros in 1941 – more than 200 – but the number dipped to just over 50 saguaros in 1975 following several decades of decline. We think that the saguaros in this part of the park declined for many reasons, but especially because of the cutting of many “nurse trees” for fuel wood. When the park protected the trees and they grew back, the saguaros began to return as well...but we are still at less than 100 saguaros and there has been a slight decline in recent years.

An interesting thing that we had each class survey the same plot, so we could compare their results (without telling them). We do this to better assess the accuracy of our Census data. One class found slightly few saguaros than the other, and the height of some tall ones varied between students who estimated their height with a clinometer. But overall, the two classes achieved pretty similar results. Great job to all!

Plot #41A



Plot #41A

